



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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March 20, 2015

Mr. Lawrence Sutherland
United States Steel Corporation
Minnesota Ore Operations, Minntac
8819 Old Highway 169
P.O. Box 417
Mountain Iron, Minnesota 55768-0417

RE: Request for Updated Information

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

U.S. Steel's February 19, 2015, letter to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) indicates that U.S. Steel no longer proposes to pursue replacement of pellet furnace waste gas wet scrubbers with dry emission controls at the Minntac facility. The letter also requests a meeting with MPCA staff to discuss a path forward. In preparation for that meeting, MPCA requests that U.S. Steel provide updated information on predicted basin sulfate concentrations that takes into account recent proposals by U.S. Steel. This information will provide MPCA staff with a better understanding of the effects of the current U.S. Steel proposal.

On February 3, 2014, U.S. Steel submitted an update of the Dry Controls Effectiveness Report (Report), which is required by the June 9, 2011 Schedule of Compliance. The Report provided a projection of sulfate concentration within the tailings basin in response to various proposed sulfate mitigation projects. In order to better understand the impacts on long term tailings basin sulfate concentration resulting from current U.S. Steel proposals, MPCA requests an updated sulfate projection based on updates to the factors that were considered in the 2014 projection. Updated factors include:

- The current sulfate concentration in the tailings basin;
- The actual date of Sump 6 start-up as a makeup water source and Sump 6 pumping rates;
- The most current estimate for the start up of the Dark River Seepage Collection and Return System (SCRS) and an update of anticipated pumping volume from 600 gpm to 1,650 gpm;
- U.S. Steel's current proposal not to replace waste gas wet scrubbers with dry air emission controls on the pellet furnaces;
- Updated sulfate loading values based on measured data (sulfate and flow) from the east side SCRS.

If there are any other factors that should be considered that were not accounted for in the 2014 projection, please describe those factors and incorporate them into the projection. The updated projection should extend to the final date indicated in the 2014 projection. In addition to the updated graph projection, please submit an itemized accounting of the average annual sulfate loadings to, and losses from, the modeled system.

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Given our understanding that U.S. Steel's existing spreadsheet model for predicting basin sulfate concentration can be recalculated with updated inputs, we believe that U.S. Steel should be able to provide the above information within 30 days of the date of this letter. If additional time is required, please contact me to discuss. Upon receipt of this information, we will work with your staff to schedule a meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 651-757-2366.

Sincerely,

Signed by Ann Foss

Ann M. Foss
Director
Metallic Mining Sector
Industrial Division

AMF/ES:lmg

cc: Chrissy Bartovich, U.S. Steel Mountain Iron
Tishie Woodwell, U.S. Steel, Pittsburgh
Ann Cohen, Attorney General's Office
John Linc Stine, MPCA
Kathleen Winters, MPCA